

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-4 (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A control facility for providing network administration for a network comprising at least one server location and a plurality of client locations associated with each of said at least one server, comprising:

at least one processing component for gathering stored software program information from said locations on said network and for evaluating the content of said program information;

at least one storage component associated with said at least one processing component for storing program information gathered from said locations;

at least one communication component for effecting communication from said at least one processing component along said network in response to said evaluating; and

[[The facility of Claim 1]] further comprising a response generating component for generating a response based upon the content of information gathered from at least one of said network locations.

6. (original) The facility of Claim 5 wherein said response generating component comprises at least means for

identifying the network location from which said content was gathered.

7-11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A network comprising:
at least one server network location;
a plurality of client network locations, each associated
with one of said at least one server locations; and
an administrative control facility for gathering and
evaluating the content of stored software program information
gathered from one or more of said at least one server location
and said plurality of client network locations,

[[The system of Claim 8,]] wherein said administrative control facility comprises:

at least one processing component for gathering information about said network;

at least one storage component associated with said at least one processing component;

at least one communication component for effecting communication from said at least one processing component along said network.

13-20 (canceled)

21. (new) The control facility of Claim 5 wherein said at least one processing component comprises a querying component for generating a query to at least one of said locations in said network and a receiving component for receiving and processing information gathered in response to said query and for generating at least one response based upon the content of said information.

22. (new) The control facility of Claim 5 wherein said at least one processing component comprises a scanner component for scanning at least one of said locations in said network and a receiving component for receiving and processing information gathered from said scanning and for generating a response based upon said information.

23. (new) The control facility of Claim 5 wherein said at least one processing component further comprises a querying component for generating a query to at least one of said locations in said network, a scanner component for scanning at least one of said locations in said network and a receiving component for receiving and processing information gathered by said processing component.

24. (new) The system of Claim 12, wherein said administrative control facility is located at one of said at least one server network locations.

25. (new) The system of Claim 12, wherein said administrative control facility is located in a central control facility.

26. (new) The system of Claim 12, wherein at least one of said at least one server network locations additionally comprises client information gathering means and at least one storage facility for storing information gathered by said client information gathering means.

27. (new) The system of Claim 12 wherein said at least one processing component comprises a querying component for generating a query to at least one of said locations in said network, a scanner component for scanning at least one of said locations in said network and a receiving component for receiving and processing information gathered by said processing component and for generating a response based upon the content of information gathered from at least one of said network locations.

28. (new) A method for providing administration of a network comprising at least one server network location and a plurality of client network locations, each associated with a server network location comprising the steps of:

gathering and evaluating information from at least one of said network locations;

preparing a response based upon an evaluation of the content of said information.

29. (new) The method of Claim 28 wherein said gathering comprises querying said locations for information.

30. (new) The method of Claim 28 wherein said gathering comprises scanning said locations and obtaining said information without involvement of processing components at said locations.

31. (new) The method of Claim 28 wherein said preparing a response comprises flagging locations from which information is gathered.

32. (new) The method of Claim 28 further comprising identifying inconsistent information at said locations.

33. (new) The method of Claim 32 wherein network information is stored and wherein said identifying comprises comparing gathered information to stored information.